



**Shemondria Ransom**

**1) What made you want to enter military service?**

I joined the military because I wanted the education benefits offered at the time.

**2) What branch of the military did you join and why?**

I originally joined the Army. I joined because I had siblings in all the other branches. I ended up switching to the Air Force after my first enlistment because there were better job opportunities.

**3) How many years did you serve?**

12 years

**4) What was your rank upon discharge?**

Still serving in the National Guard; Technical Sergeant

**5) What has been your greatest achievement in the military?**

My greatest achievement has been making it past the 10 year mark. It is difficult to manage being in the military, raising a family, continuing my education, and also working a full time job.

**6) What lesson did you learn while in the military that you still use today?**

There's always another way to accomplish goals. Before you completely give up, set your emotions to the side so that you can logically consider all options.

**7) Did your military service influence your life today?**

Yes, because of the military I have more self- discipline

**8) Tell us a funny story that could only happen in the military.**

My first week on an active duty Army base, I didn't make it to my dorm before the daily Reveille/Retreat. (Retreat is a melody that is played at 5pm daily signifying the end of the duty day that's followed by the National Anthem). When the tone is played, if you are driving you have to pull over and render a salute until the music stops. In a rush one day, I tried to wrap myself in a blanket so my military top wouldn't show because I didn't want to get out of my car and stand in the cold while the music played. I was seen by one of the officers. The next day during Reveille (played in the mornings at

6:30am to start the duty day) he made me render a salute to the flag for an entire hour while standing next to my car.

**9) What duty station did you most enjoy?**

Eglin Air Force Base; you can enjoy the beach on your lunch break!

**10) Why did you choose your military job specialty?**

I chose my job specialty because it provides endless learning possibilities and many different ways for me to care for my fellow servicemen. I find it an honor to provide care to those I serve beside.